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spectrograph by GAERTNER are in position, and the two plane mirrors, each twelve inches thick, have been figured by Professor RITCHEY.

GEORGE E. HALE.

September, 1907.

PROFESSOR JULIUS'S VISIT TO MT. WILSON.

As the outcome of a plan arranged two years ago, Professor W. H. JULIUS, of the University of Utrecht, has recently spent some weeks on Mt. Wilson. The prime object of his visit was to discuss the possible bearing of anomalous dispersion on astrophysical phenomena, in the hope that definite criteria might be found, capable of settling the question. A series of investigations has now been planned, covering both solar and laboratory work, and will be carried out as soon as possible.

While on Mt. Wilson Professor JULIUS employed the five-foot spectroheliograph to photograph the anomalous-dispersion phenomena of sodium vapor, which resemble the solar flocculi. This work, as well as the numerous discussions of the anomalous-dispersion theory, was a source of great pleasure and profit to all the members of the staff.

September, 1907. GEORGE E. HALE.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE STAFF OF THE MT. WILSON SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

Professor J. C. KAPTEYN, of the University of Groningen, will hereafter spend several months of each year at Mt. Wilson, and take charge of such parallax and other similar work as may be done in connection with his "Plan of Selected Areas." So far as possible, the working programme of the 60-inch reflector will be arranged so that the photographs, both direct and spectroscopic, will be of service for Professor KAPTEYN'S studies of stellar distribution, as well as for the prime purpose of the observatory—the investigation of stellar evolution. This can easily be done by giving preference to KAPTEYN'S areas when undertaking general spectrographic surveys or in studying the smaller spiral nebulæ. In addition, certain nights will be set apart for his special purposes. The direct bearing, on the one hand, of KAPTEYN'S important researches on the problem of stellar evolution, and the need, on the other, of a large reflector to furnish the data he desires for the fainter stars, promise valuable returns from this co-operative undertaking. Professor KAPTEYN will commence work on Mt. Wilson as soon as the 60-inch reflector is ready for use, probably in the summer of 1908.

Dr. ARTHUR L. KING, of the University of California, will take charge of the physical laboratory of the Solar Observatory as soon as he can relinquish the duties of his present position, probably in January, 1908. It is proposed to undertake an extensive investigation of anomalous-dispersion phenomena, and the effects of temperature and pressure, for lines which will also be studied in sun-spots, at the center and limb of the Sun, in the chromosphere, and in stars of various types. Dr. KING will be assisted in the laboratory by Dr. OLMSTED, who has been engaged in similar work at Mt. Wilson during the past year.

GEORGE E. HALE.

September, 1907.

REQUEST FOR UNPUBLISHED OBSERVATIONS OF THE VARIABLE STAR *U GEMINORUM.*

Mr. J. VAN DER BILT, Astronomer at the observatory, Utrecht, Holland, has undertaken the definitive reduction of all available observations of this remarkable variable, and would be very glad to have copies of any unpublished observations, in such detail that they can be reduced by a normal photometric light-scale. They may be sent to him direct. Address Maliesingel 58, Utrecht; or if sent to the undersigned, they will be transmitted to him.

YERKES OBSERVATORY,
WILLIAMS BAY, WISCONSIN.

J. A. PARKHURST.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF OF LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. KEIVIN BURNS, Carnegie Assistant during the past four years, with duties in the measurement and reduction of stellar spectrograms, resigned, to take effect October 1st, in order to pursue postgraduate studies.

Dr. B. L. NEWKIRK, Carnegie Assistant during the past year, resigned, to take effect September 1st, to accept appointment as Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Mechanics in the College of Engineering, University of Minnesota.

HENRY C. PLUMMER, M. A., Assistant in the University of Oxford during the past six years, has been appointed a Fellow